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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MCKINLEY
CHILDREN'S CENTER GROUP HOME, MAIN SITE**

We have completed a review of McKinley Children's Center, Main Site (Group Home or Agency). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

McKinley Children's Center Group Home, Main Site is an 88-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, McKinley Children's Center Group Home, Main Site was providing services for 80 Los Angeles County DCFS children, three Los Angeles County Probation children, three Riverside County children, one Sonoma County child, and one San Bernardino County child. McKinley Children's Center Group Home, Main Site is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with eight children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to make repairs in the cottages; document residents' participation in the development and updating of their Needs and Services Plans; and provide each resident with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:gw

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Steve Young, Executive Director, McKinley Children's Center
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
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**McKinley Children's Center
Main Site
762 West Cypress Street
San Dimas, CA 91773
Phone: (323) 599-1227
License No.: 191502075
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

McKinley Children's Center Group Home, Main Site (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The Group Home has eight cottages: Campbell, Gregory, Fox, Kingsley, Wood, Bashor, Whittier, and Kiwanis. Each cottage's décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the interiors of the cottages need some improvements.

The showers and floor tiles in all of the cottage bathrooms are dirty. There are missing bathroom floor tiles in Gregory, Kingsley, Wood, and Bashor cottages. In Gregory cottage, there are stains on the carpet, the hallway, and in bedrooms four and six. In Fox cottage, there are stains on the carpet in the living room and in the multipurpose room.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. McKinley Children's Center management:**
 - a. Clean the shower floors and tiles in all of the cottage bathrooms.**
 - b. Replace the missing bathroom floor tiles in Gregory, Kingsley, Wood, and Bashor cottages.**
 - c. Replace stained carpeting in Gregory and Fox cottages as needed.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs. However, there was no documentation to support residents' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. McKinley Children's Center management maintain documentation to support residents' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

Residents are attending school. Their records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for 52 case files

Comments:

Residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, probation officers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

One resident stated that he has not been provided with an opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

- 3. McKinley Children's Center management provide each resident with regular opportunities to maintain a photo album/life book.**